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September 19, 1950

My dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

Thank you for your letter of August 23, 1950 concerning the peripheral reporting system recently established by the Department of State to facilitate the acquisition of information regarding Communist-dominated countries.

The Department is well aware of the strong interest of the Central Intelligence Agency and the other intelligence agencies in this and all other types of field reporting and makes every effort to keep all agencies informed concerning new developments or modifications of existing systems. In line with this policy the Department of State has furnished your Agency with copies of all instructions to the field concerning peripheral reporting, commencing with the basic instructions contained in the Department's Circular Telegram of February 15, 1950 and Circular Airgram of June 19, 1950. Copies of all special peripheral reports received from the posts, in line with the instructions, have also been furnished under regular distribution procedures. In addition, conversations have been held at the working level with your area people, and their ideas on particular field units have been sought. We hope these arrangements have proved satisfactory and will make every effort to maintain these close relationships.

At the same time, the Department recognizes its responsibilities to the other Federal agencies interested in field reporting obtained through the facilities of the Foreign Service and welcomes comments or suggestions for improvement. Thus, the comprehensive statement of CIA requirements in the field of peripheral reporting, which you state your Agency is now preparing, will be gratefully received and will be of benefit to the Department in its planning.

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Rear Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter,
Director of Central Intelligence,
Washington, D.C.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Washington 25, D. C.

23 August 1950

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Through informal channels I have learned that the Department of State has established a peripheral reporting system in recognition of the deficiencies in the collection of information from Communist-dominated areas. This countermeasure to the curtailment of activities behind the Curtain is of vital importance in supporting our intelligence effort.

Accordingly, the Central Intelligence Agency is anxious to undertake any appropriate measures to strengthen the endeavor which of course will continue under the administrative direction of the Department of State, and will urge the Service Intelligence agencies to cooperate to the fullest degree, since the peripheral reporting work will bring results which will benefit all intelligence production.

I have instructed our Agency to prepare a comprehensive statement of CIA requirements in the field of peripheral reporting to be transmitted to the Department of State.

In the meantime I would appreciate learning from you as to how and where the assistance of CIA can be best utilized.

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Sincerely yours,

R.H. MILLER KOETTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central
Intelligence

Copy to:
Secretary of Defense
Spec. Asst., Intell. - Dept. of State

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